

SYNOPSISF. Mergui - Kirikhan Road.

Prosecution Document numbered 5125, the Affidavit of Major V. BENNETT, is now introduced for identification, the excerpts marked wherein are now offered in evidence. This document states that in April, 1945, the witness arrived at the Top Camp, which was to be used to accommodate prisoners building the road from Mergui to Kirikhan.

"...The Top Camp had been used for the accommodation of coolies who had left before we arrived. There were three very broken down huts, one without a roof. This was the season when it rained almost continuously and in view of the fact that the huts were situated in a ravine surrounded by high trees, we never had the chance to dry our kit and clothing.

The food consisted of rice and dry vegetables and was so short in quantity that after about 3 weeks most of the prisoners were suffering from beri-beri and other deficiency diseases. Added to the shortage of food, prisoners were subjected to excessive work, and I remember a period when work went on from about 0830 in the morning until 2 or 3 o'clock the following morning. When this was the case there was no opportunity for prisoners to have meals in camp, and buckets of rice and vegetable stew had to be sent out to the working site.

The sick-rate which had been about 30 to 40 men per day rose after about 3 weeks to 60 to 70 men per day, the most usual complaints being deficiency diseases and malaria. In view of the high sick-rate as aforesaid, I had to ask for some of the worst cases to be evacuated. This was always refused...."

Medical supplies were meagre. Although no deaths occurred among P/W at this camp, of the total of about 1,000 men who set out from Nakhonpatom to build the road, about 250 died in four months owing to the lack of medical supplies, overwork, inadequate food and the disgraceful living conditions.

Ex 1584  
Doc 5454

No 1

対照書類

記録書類才五四五四号

F. 「メルギ」/MERGI/ヨリ「キリカン」/KIRIKHAN/へ道路

検察部書類才五二二五号、陸軍少佐「ガイ・ベンネット」

「V. BENNETT」の供述書に茲ニ檢記ノ為提出シ、該書類  
中ニ誌セル振草ヲ茲ニ記録ニ供ス、該書類ハ九四五年  
昭和二十年四月中證人カ「トップ」收容所/Top camp/即チ  
「メルギ」/MERGI/ヨリ「キリカン」/KIRIKHAN/ニ到ル道路建  
設ニ従事スル信房ヲ收容スル建物ニ到着セルコトヲ記述  
スルモノナル。

「……該TOP CAMP  
收容所トシテ使用セテ居ルマシク、其処ニハ三軒、  
非高即ニ破損シタ小屋カアリマシク、其ノ中ノ一軒、  
屋根カアリマセンデシク、當時、殆ド毎日外雨、  
降ルモノアリマシク、此ノ小屋、高ク樹木ヲ圍ミタ  
山峽ニ在リマシタガ、私共ハ服装具ヤ衣類ヲ乾ス機  
會モアリマセンデシク。

食物ハ米ト乾燥野菜カ成リ、少量アリマシタ、  
約二週間迄ニハ大部分、信房ハ脚氣、其他榮  
養失調症ニ悩マシタ。食物不足ノ上ニ信房ハ  
過勞、營養ニ服サズニテツナカタシタ。而シテ  
私ハ今迄モ作業カ朝、八時三十分頃チ、翌日午  
二時乃至三時迄繼續シタ期間カ「トップ」記憶シ  
テ居ルマシク、此ノ様ナ時ニハ信房ハ收容所内ニ食事

No2

Doc 5454

ヲ攝ル機會ガアリマセンデシタカラ、米ト野菜汁ノ容ヲ  
バケツヲ作業ノ現場迄持ツ行カナケレバナラナカフタ  
ノデシタ。

一日約三。名乃至四。名ノ罹病率ハ約三週間後  
二六。一日六。名乃至七。名ニ上昇シ最モ通常ノ  
疾病ハ栄養失調症トマツリヤデシタ。前述ノ様ナ  
高イ罹病率ニ鑑ミ私ハ此ノ最重症患者達若干  
名ヲ他ヘ移ス様ニ請願セヌバナラナカワタ。斯様ナ請  
願ハ常に拒否セタノデス。――

醫藥品ハ不足シ居タリ。該收容所ニ於テ後房間ニ  
死セセルモノナカリシモ、ナコンパトムノ道路  
路築造ノ為モ動セル全數約千名ノ内、約二百五名ハ  
医薬品ノ缺乏、過度ノ労働、不適當ナル食品及ヒ取  
ツヘキ生活條件ニ因リ四月内ニ死亡セリ。